

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/730,171

Examiner

John B. Sotomayor

Applicant(s)

LEVITAN ET AL.

Art Unit

3662

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 08 December 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 08Dec03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 3662

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings filed December 8, 2003 appear to be formal and are acceptable.

### *Information Disclosure Statement*

2. The information disclosure statement filed December 8, 2003 has been entered and considered. An initialed copy of the PTO-1449 by the Examiner is attached.

### *Allowable Subject Matter*

3. Claims 1-22 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art fails to render obvious the claimed method for facilitating detection of a threat including, inter alia, operating a transmitter to transmit signals in the direction of a plurality of cells corresponding to different ranges relative to the transmitter to pan a scene, operating a detector to detect reflected signals during an analysis period received from the plurality of cells, determining a threat reference threshold for the analysis period as a function of the reflected signals detected during the analysis period by measuring detected reflected signals from the plurality of cells to generate a measured signal value for each particular one of the cells, modifying the measured signal values corresponding to some particular ones of said at least some cells by a distance factor corresponding to the distance the particular one of the cells is from the transmitter to generate a modified measured signal value for each of said some particular ones of said cells, and generating the threat reference threshold as a function of at least some of the modified measured signal values. The prior art does show detecting a threat using a radar system. However the present invention, as claimed, cannot be fairly rendered obvious by the prior art. One of the advantages of the present invention is that the threat threshold level is normally generated to be higher than the weighted energy average, e.g., by a fixed or user adjustable amount, to reduce the risk of threats being declared erroneously.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Art Unit: 3662


**Conclusion**

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The cited prior art show various radar systems.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John B. Sotomayor whose telephone number is 703-306-4170. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:30AM to 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom H. Tarcza, can be reached on 703-306-4171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
John B. Sotomayor  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 3662